Five Year Plan. My Government propose to open more N. E. S. Blocks next year as part of the Second Five Year Plan. The object is eventually to cover the entire State with N. E. S. Blocks which, judged by the results so far achieved, will lead the way to more intensive development of the State in agriculture, industry and social services.

Industries.

My Government have fully appreciated the necessity for all-round development of industries, as one of the means for tackling the problem of unemployment and increasing the national income. Steps have been taken for the consolidation and organisation of Government owned commercial concerns and a large number of small scale industries, cottage industries and handicrafts in the State. For the achievement of greater efficiency in the working of industrial concerns owned and managed by Government, a Board of Management with powers of the Board of Directors of a Joint Stock Company has been constituted. With a view to accelerate the progress of the development of Khadi and Village Industries, my Government propose to vest statutory powers with the State Khadi and Village Industries Board. Steps are also being taken to give liberal grants for those engaged in a number of small-scale and cottage industries. Loans and grants to Co-operative Societies of hand-loom weavers will be given during the next financial year on an increased scale in view of the success achieved in this field during the current year.

In the matter of trade and commerce, my Government are of the view that the constitution of a State Trading Corporation for carrying on export trade in a few major dollar earning commodities will be in the best interests of the State and will take active steps for this purpose in co-operation with the Government of India. At the instance of the Government of India, an enquiry regarding Cashewnut Industry is being conducted. A Scheme to step up production of cashewnuts in the State with a view to reduce dependence on foreign raw materials will be carried out during the next Plan period.

Irrigation and Flood Control Projects.

The major irrigation projects to be taken up anew under the Second Five Year Plan during 1956-57, are the second stages of Chalakudi and Neyyar Schemes, Cheerakuzhi and Bhoothathankettu Projects. A good number of

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medium irrigation works and lift irrigation schemes are also programmed for execution next year.

A new scheme of flood control in respect of Karamana and Killiyar rivers and Thottappally areas has been drawn up and it is proposed to start its execution next year.

Anti-sea Erosion.

The problem of sea erosion became menacing in the later years of the First Plan period and an experimental scheme for providing protection to the worst affected areas was, therefore, taken up in January 1955. A more comprehensive scheme has been drawn up for implementation during the Second Plan period. This scheme, when implemented, will afford protection to all parts of the State coast line which have been affected by sea-erosion in the past. A substantial part of the programme will be implemented in the next year.

Electricity.

There has been remarkable progress in the development of power and the targets set for the First Five Year Plan have almost been achieved. The erection of the fourth generating set at Poringalkuthu, commencement of the preliminary works connected with the Panniyar and Sholayar Schemes and the execution of the Neriyamangalam Scheme are the important activities of the Department for the current year. The work on these will be continued next year.

A heavy programme of transmission and distribution works with the object of supplying electricity to every nook and corner of the State has been drawn up, so that new vistas of employment in big and small industries both in urban and rural areas may be opened.

Education.

In furtherance of the policy of making education free in the Middle Schools, Government had abolished fees in Forms I and II from the beginning of 1954–55. Further strides were made in this direction by abolishing fees in Form III as well from the beginning of the current year. Schemes for the expansion of Basic Education in the State are in progress. A Basic Training College will be started next year to train teachers for implementing the scheme. Measures are also to be taken to improve selected Secondary

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